

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

SENATE MEMORIAL 77

**49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009**

INTRODUCED BY

Timothy Z. Jennings

A MEMORIAL

EXPRESSING THE BELATED CONDOLENCE OF THE SENATE TO THE FAMILY OF MELANIE MILFORD CRAVENS AND HER CHILDREN AND HONORING THE LIVES OF MELANIE MILFORD CRAVENS AND HER CHILDREN, KANDYCE MAY NADINE, ERIN LOREE AND KACEE DEON.

WHEREAS, on Christmas eve, 1992, Melanie Nadine Milford Cravens, thirty-one years old, and her three daughters, Kandyce May Nadine Woodward, nine years old, Erin Loree Woodward, eight years old, and Kacee Deon Woodward, five years old, were tragically killed in a head-on collision on interstate 40; and

WHEREAS, Paul Cravens, husband of Melanie and stepfather to her daughters, was critically injured in that same accident; and

WHEREAS, Melanie and the girls will always be remembered for their loving natures and for who they were while they were

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 with us, and they will never age; and

2 WHEREAS, Melanie was a beautiful woman who took charge of  
3 situations easily and whose family was the center of her life;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Kandyce was a smart and talented child who lived  
6 every moment of her brief life with enthusiasm and spirit; and

7 WHEREAS, Erin, the middle child, carried sunshine in her  
8 heart and joy in her infectious giggle; and

9 WHEREAS, Kacee, the baby of the family, was a darling  
10 little princess who was very loving and who loved to be waited  
11 on; and

12 WHEREAS, the three girls and Melanie were committed  
13 Christians who loved God and whose faith was strong; and

14 WHEREAS, following that tragic night, Melanie's mother,  
15 Nadine Milford, dedicated her life to making people aware of  
16 New Mexico's problems with DWI and to strengthening the  
17 consequences and penalties for DWI; and

18 WHEREAS, in 1993, the first year following that night, the  
19 New Mexico legislature adopted numerous measures that lowered  
20 the legal level of intoxication; made a fourth or subsequent  
21 conviction for DWI a felony; created a charge of aggravated DWI  
22 for a driver who refused a breath test or had a blood alcohol  
23 level above sixteen one-hundredths; created mandatory jail  
24 times for second or subsequent DWI offenses; and required  
25 server training for all alcohol licensees and their employees;

.178295.1

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 and

2 WHEREAS, in intervening years, the New Mexico legislature  
3 continued to address this problem area by increasing penalties  
4 for DWI; and

5 WHEREAS, during his first term as a senator, Kent Cravens  
6 carried ignition interlock legislation, and, in 2002, a measure  
7 to require ignition interlocks for subsequent and aggravated  
8 DWI offenses passed and has since been strengthened; and

9 WHEREAS, Gordon House, the driver of the vehicle that  
10 killed Melanie and her girls, was convicted of four counts of  
11 vehicular homicide and sentenced to twenty-two years in prison;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, due to good behavior, Mr. House was granted  
14 parole after serving nearly half of his sentence; and

15 WHEREAS, upon his release from prison, he will be required  
16 to use an ignition interlock device as a provision of his  
17 parole; and

18 WHEREAS, at the hearing of the parole board, many family  
19 members of Melanie Cravens expressed forgiveness and mercy  
20 toward Mr. House; and

21 WHEREAS, out of the chaos and tragedy of that night in  
22 1992 has arisen great personal courage to forgive and to help  
23 others and the passage of many important measures to make New  
24 Mexico a better and safer place to live;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE

.178295.1

underscoring material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 OF NEW MEXICO that the belated condolence of the senate be  
2 expressed to the family of Melanie Milford Cravens and her  
3 children and that the lives of Melanie Milford Cravens and her  
4 children, Kandyce May Nadine Woodward, Erin Loree Woodward and  
5 Kacee Deon Woodward, be appropriately honored; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
7 transmitted to Paul Cravens, Nadine Milford and Senator Kent L.  
8 Cravens.

10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25